

Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

JUN 02 2003
Distribution Center

May 28, 2003

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

• There must be no relaxing of media ownership rules.

On the contrary, the FCC should require the reversal of the trend toward consolidation. A case in point is the media giant Clear Channel Communications whose domination of radio have homogenized the airwaves. Another example of this distortion is the plan of Rupert Murdoch (an Australian citizen, incidentally) to purchase DirecTV, opening the door to TV becoming an outpost of the Murdoch empire.

Democracy is built on the idea that the view and beliefs of an informed citizenry are the best basis for political decision-making. Without access to fair and balanced news, the political system simply doesn't work.

Media corporations cannot be trusted to balance themselves. They have shown, again and again, that they're willing to sacrifice journalism to improve the bottom line. That's why we need many media entities - to keep each other honest and to provide the information and ideas that make democracy happen.

Monopoly power is a dangerous thing, and the FCC and Congress are supposed to guard against it. You must support a diverse, competitive media landscape.

• You must delay any ruling for 60 days during which time more public hearings will be held.

• The process of your decision-making must become transparent, with drafts made public and subject to debate.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

Fred Smith
Fred Smith
J. Smith
PA

MAY 30 2003
Distribution Center

499 HUMBOLDT STREET
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA
MAY 30, 2003

COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR COMMISSIONER MARTIN,

PLEASE, NO RELAXING OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP
RULES!

YOU MUST DELAY ANY RULING FOR 60 DAYS TO
ACCOMMODATE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

THE DECIMINATION OF NEWS IN A FREE SOCIETY
IS AN IMPERATIVE

PRESERVE OUR CHOICES.

THIS IS DEMOCRACY AT WORK!

THANK YOU.

YOURS TRULY,
DECKER W. SMITH

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Sincerely,

Donald A. Scott
4281 Scott Way
Calistoga, CA 94515

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JUL - 8 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

MAY 30 2003

Distribution Center

TO: FCC Chairman Powell
FROM: Camille Bright-Smith
DATE: May 30, 2003
RE: Vote on Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers

Dear Sir,

As a concerned citizen and a constituent of the public servant which assigned you to your position, I respectfully ask that you delay the vote you currently have scheduled for the coming Monday June 2nd. The public has not had enough time to learn about the details of this proposal. Many of us are just now learning about this proposal and what the implications mean for our ability to get accurate news and information. It would not be appropriate for the FCC to move forward with this action without further public discussion and input.

Thank you for your consideration,


Camille Bright-Smith
Signal Hill, California
562) 597-9094

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JUL - 3 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the SecretaryFederal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC20554**RECEIVED**
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary1430 Grizzly Peak Blvd.,
Berkeley, CA 94708
May 28, 2003

Dear Sirs and Madam:

I have been following with considerable concern, the implications of your upcoming vote June 2nd. The lack of information about the potential effect of consolidating media ownership is appalling. It is as though the media wants to keep it silent with your help.

The present cap on ownership of national multiple television companies which reach 35% of the national audience seems broad enough to offer the possibility of hearing more than one opinion on a given subject. Broadening the area reach to 45% would seem like further cutting down possible opposition, and reducing our chance of hearing other viewpoints.

How can a democracy function if it's citizens only hear one side? This is not what our founding fathers wisely had in mind. With the persuasion of the mighty dollar able to dictate these days, I truly fear for our form of government. There is a disgusting amount of homogeneity going out on MY air already. We need to have some contra programming and news which more of the like- minded will not produce. Do not give them a larger area to control.

I urge you to act responsibly and prevent further concentration of ownership of media that already reaches 35% of our nation. It is a chilling prospect to consider having even less diversity than we now have. Do not make it more difficult for us to do our job, as citizens. We need to vote intelligently on issues before our region and our country.

Sincerely,


Barbara K. Sterncc Senator Dianne Feinstein
cc Senator Barbara Boxer
cc Representative Barbara LoeferMAY 30 2003
Distribution Center

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

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On the contrary, the FCC should require the reversal of the trend toward consolidation. A case in point is the media giant Clear Channel Communications whose domination of radio ~~has~~ homogenized the airwaves. Another example of this distortion is the plan of Rupert Murdoch (an Australian citizen, incidentally) to purchase DirecTV, opening the door to TV becoming an outpost of the Murdoch empire.

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Democracy is built on the idea that the views and beliefs of an informed citizenry are the best basis for political decision-making. Without access to fair and balanced news, a political system simply doesn't work.

RECEIVED

JUL - 3 2003

Media corporations cannot be trusted to balance themselves. They have shown, again and again, that they're willing to sacrifice journalism to improve the bottom line. That's why we need many media entities - to keep each other honest and to provide the information and ideas that make democracy happen.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Monopoly power is a dangerous thing, and the FCC and Congress are supposed to guard against it. You must support a diverse, competitive media landscape.

You must delay any ruling for 60 days during which time more public hearings will be held.

MAY 30 2003

Distribution Center

The process of your decision-making must become transparent, with drafts made public and subject to debate.

E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

Kim Shields
15454 Bay Ave
Rio Hondo, CA 95471

5

MAY 29 2003

Distribution Center

FAX

TO: Kevin J. Martin, Federal Communications Commission, Fax 202-418-0710
FROM: Karen Taylor, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
DATE: 5-29-03
RE: MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

Dear FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

There must be no relaxing of media ownership rules.

On the contrary, the FCC should require the reversal of the trend toward consolidation.
A case in point is the media giant Clear Channel Communications whose domination of radio has homogenized the airwaves. Another example of this distortion is the plan of Rupert Murdoch (an Australian citizen, incidentally) to purchase DirecTV, opening the door to TV becoming an outpost of the Murdoch empire.

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Media corporations cannot be trusted to balance themselves. They have shown, again and again, that they're willing to sacrifice journalism to improve the bottom line. That's why we need many media entities -- to keep each other HONEST and to provide the information and ideas that make democracy happen.

Monopoly power is a dangerous thing, and the FCC and Congress are required to guard against monopoly power; therefore, I ask that you continue to support a diverse, competitive media landscape.

I ask that you delay any ruling for 60 days during which time more public hearings will be held and that the full process of your decision-making must be available to all U.S. citizens, with drafts made public and subject to debate.

Thank you.

E PLURIBUS UNUM,

Sincerely,

Karen Taylor

FCC-rule chg. (Broadcast Ownership Rule) June 6-83

Do not change the rules which have
stood in good stead for many years.
New rules are not always for the
good of the many. you will with
the new rules create more
monopolies & eventually lead us
to select few who will govern what
we hear, read & what we are
to speak. No to these changes which
could also hurt smaller business
enterprises - with less employment & also
less tax money in these large corporations.
Sincerely,
Dorothy V. Urbanec

FAX TO:

KEVIN J MARTIN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
202 418 0710

FROM:
LIN MARIE DEVINCENT
POB 1957
GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442
USA

May 29, 2003

DEAR COMMISSIONER MARTIN,

I AM APPALLED THAT THE FCC IS CONSIDERING GIVING AWAY THE
FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN AMERICA. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT AMOUNTS
TO WHEN YOU ALLOW THE BULLYS TO INTIMIDATE US INTO SILENCE.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN! PLEASE DELAY ANY RULING FOR 60 DAYS TO
ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO STAY INVOLVED IN OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO GUARD AGAINST CORRUPT CORPORATE
MONOPOLY OF OUR RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH.

WE ARE LISTENING AND WATCHING.

A UNITED STATES CITIZEN,



LIN MARIE DEVINCENT

MAY 29 2003
Distribution Center

Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

May 28, 2003

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E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

Rick Williams

Herbert Weisel
15569 Fremont Drive
Adelanto, CA 92301
(760) 246-4218

May 29, 2003

Federal Communication Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 10554

MAY 29 2003

Attention: Commissioner, Micheal Copp

Distribution Center

Subject: Upcoming Commission Vote, June 2, 2003

Dear Commissioner Copp:

I am writing to you today about the crucial historic meeting on June 2, 2003 of your commission to vote on whether the five (5) media conglomerates can buy more radio stations, T.V. stations and newspapers in the United States.

My wife and I, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert H. Weisel, are very concerned about the controlled media in America and we are totally outraged by the Administration's outright attack on the First Amendment of our U.S. Constitution, which guarantees all citizens, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of the press and we are losing our news media!

I, Herbert Weisel, am a World War II veteran, Army Air Corps, B-17's and a retired aerospace worker living in California. Last Friday, May 23, I watched Bill Moyers T.V. program "NOW" on P.B.S. and he did a splendid job documenting your commission, F.C.C. and what is going on with all the trips and perks that you receive from the media giants that you are supposed to regulate!

Near the end of Bill Moyers T.V. show, Bill showed a news clip film of American G.I.'s landing in Normandy on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. A day I and all W.W. II vets will remember the rest of our lives!

As Bill Moyers said, many brave young Americans made the supreme sacrifice that very tragic day and that these true American heroes made this supreme sacrifice to save America and the world from dictators and tyrants, and not to save the Ken Lays and other C.E.O.'s of the world and we should honor our fallen heroes. I feel this should go for the President, Congress and Commission heads as well.

I therefore urge your (5) commission members in the strongest terms to vote a resounding NO next Monday, June 2 to the (6) media conglomerates including Rupert "greedy" Murdoch. Many Americans I am sure view these media conglomerates as enemies of our Republic!

Yours for a better America,

Herbert Weisel

Herbert H. Weisel

Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
(202) 418 - 0710 FAX

MAY 29 2003
Distribution Center

May 28, 2003

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E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,

Joe Wheelon
1535 Farmers Lane #109
Irvine CA 92615

TOTAL P.01

**Ad Hoc Committee for Media Diversity
P.O.Box 484, Occidental, CA 95465
(707) 874-3855 (707) 823-5825**

**Attention: Kevin J. Martin,
Federal Communications Commissioner**

Fax#: (202) 418-0710

MAY 30 2003

Distribution Center

From: Judy Wismer, R.N.

Pages (including cover sheet): 2

Date: 5/30/03

Comments:

Ad Hoc Committee for Media Diversity
P.O. Box 484, Occidental, CA 95465
(707)874-3855, (707)823-5825

May 28, 2003

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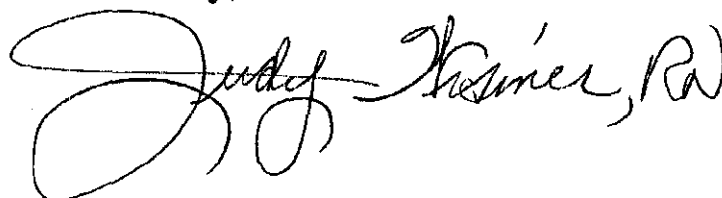
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E PLURIBUS UNUM

Sincerely,



14575 Road G, Cortez, Colorado 81321-9575
Tel: 970-564-1508 Fax: 970-564-1513

Penny K. Welch
William A. Southworth

Fax

To: Chairman Michael Powell

From: Penny Welch and Bill Southworth

Fax: 202-418-0710

Pages: 1

Phone: 1-202-418-1000

Date: 5/30/2003

Re: Media Consolidation Vote

CC:

☒ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

• **Comments:**

The United States is a democracy, and because of that historic wisdom decisions about such large-consequence issues as media consolidation NEED public debate and consideration.

We request that you delay the vote on media consolidation, which was originally scheduled for Monday, June 2, until a later time when the public and congress will have had ample time to consider the issue and advise your office and the Commission on their conclusions.

In preparation for such a debate, the full and precise wording of the ruling under consideration should be known and available to anyone who requests it.

Sincerely,

Penny Welch *Bill Southworth*

Penny Welch

Bill Southworth

MAY 30 2003

Distribution Center

(Date)

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554
FAX (202) 418-0710

Chairman Powell,

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Our democracy depends upon a diverse and robust media that ensures the free flow of information from a wide array sources and viewpoints. But recent years have been characterized by rapid consolidation in the media industry, a trend that has left us with fewer corporations controlling a larger percentage of the information upon which we base important political and personal decisions.

Please do not change the media ownership rules.

Sincerely,

April H. Watts

MAY 30 2003

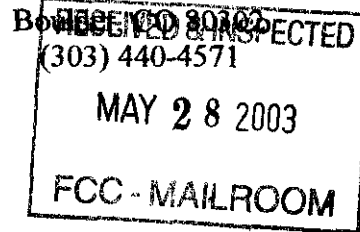
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JUL - 3 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Fleet Russell White, Jr. and Priscilla Brown White
403 Cleveland Place



May 20, 2003

Mel Karmazin
President
Viacom Inc.
1515 Broadway
New York, New York 10036

Confirmed

MAY 29 2003

01/20/2003

Dear Mr. Karmazin:

We have read news accounts of your May 13, 2003 testimony before the United States Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in support of proposed changes to Federal Communication Commission rules that would allow yet greater concentration of print and broadcast media ownership by large companies such as Viacom. We do not agree that existing ownership rules should be relaxed. Concentrated ownership and control of print and broadcast media is detrimental to American society and values and antithetical to the interests of our democratic government. We would like to provide you with compelling reasons why this is especially true in the case of Viacom.

We are former friends of John and Patsy Ramsey and, along with other members of our family, served as witnesses in the investigation of JonBenet Ramsey's death. You may recall receiving letters from us in November and December 1999 shortly after the CBS/Viacom merger was announced. We wrote the letters after speaking with Kerry McCluggage of Viacom's Paramount Television Group to express our concern regarding Paramount's abhorrent "Leeza" television programs dealing with the Ramsey investigation. Additionally, we expressed our strong concern for a planned CBS television movie that would dramatize the *ongoing* investigation of JonBenet Ramsey's death. The movie would be based on a book written by Lawrence Schiller who was also to be the producer. We had been publicly critical of Mr. Schiller and his book and told Mr. McCluggage in a November 3 1999 letter (with copies to you, Viacom Chairman Sumner Redstone, and CBS Television President Leslie Moonves):

"It is clear that Mr. Schiller not only intends to exploit the murder of JonBenet Ramsey, he also wishes to exert inappropriate influence on the criminal justice system in a manner that will best serve his commercial interests. Mr. Schiller has cynically exploited the ignorance and vanity of people involved in the murder investigation. Mr. Schiller has written a book that is replete with inaccurate and deliberately misleading information given to him by people with axes to grind. He has now enlisted CBS to make a television movie based on that book."

Mel Karmazin
May 20, 2003
Page Two

As for the proposed CBS merger with Viacom, we wrote Mr. McCluggage:

“When the Viacom/CBS merger was announced, Sumner Redstone was quoted as saying:

‘Our union will be king—not just in content, but in distribution, marketing, and packaging. We will be global leaders in every facet of the media and entertainment industry...’

We (the Whites) can only hope that the high commercial aspirations held by the managers of the consolidated American broadcast news and entertainment companies—including Mr. Redstone and Mel Karmazin—will somehow become subordinated to the best interests of our society and the world. If Viacom is to be a responsible and benevolent “king”, the content of its broadcast programming must be designed to help the world as it struggles to foster and preserve literacy and civility and to promote democratic governments and institutions. A television movie—entertainment—dramatizing the ongoing investigation of the murder of a six-year old girl is absolutely antithetical to those objectives.”

In response to our letter to Mr. McCluggage, we received a terse letter from a Mr. Bourgeois with CBS Television who stated “The miniseries is not intended to sensationalize or trivialize the murder of JonBenet Ramsey, but rather to chronicle the investigation as it has unfolded to date.”

In a December 13, 1999 letter addressed to you, Mr. Redstone, Mr. McCluggage and Mr. Moonves, we urged that the movie project be abandoned:

“You must be aware that this program will place the rights and well being of a great number of people at risk and is certain to cause them a great deal of distress. You must also know that the only possible beneficiaries of this program are CBS/Viacom and a small group of people including Lawrence Schiller and some actors. A television audience will certainly not “benefit” from viewing a dramatization of this tragedy—the best they can hope for is to be entertained...Please discontinue your plans to dramatize the JonBenet Ramsey murder investigation. If preserving the good memory of JonBenet Ramsey and protecting the rights and well being of a lot of people are insufficient reasons to do so, then do it for the good of your industry and to demonstrate that the new company you are creating stands for civility, social responsibility and good taste. It is very likely that such a decision would be widely acknowledged and praised.”

Mel Karmazin
May 20, 2003
Page Three

We did not receive a response to that letter. CBS continued the production of its miniseries "Perfect Murder Perfect Town". On January 13, 2000 Mr. Moonves promoted the project by telling the Denver Post that he had a "visceral reaction" to the movie's "rigor mortis scene" and that the miniseries will provide "a fascinating character study, something about the American dream, the beauty pageants, what these people represented, egos and a small town police force." CBS broadcast the "Perfect Murder Perfect Town" miniseries in two segments during sweeps week on February 27 and March 1, 2000 and it was universally received with the disgust that it so richly deserved.

On February 25, 2000, two days before the first segment of "Perfect Murder Perfect Town" aired, your CBS-owned Denver television station KCNC News 4 led its news broadcasts with a the story of an unidentified woman who claimed to have been victimized since infancy by a "child sex ring" and that her abuse was relevant to JonBenet's death. As stated by your KCNC reporter:

"A woman who has family connections to former Ramsey friend Fleet White has come forward with some allegations about sexual abuse that have happened in her life that may have some connections to the Ramsey case. Her attorney would not say exactly what that connection, what those allegations implied, what their specific connection is to the Ramsey case. But we are told she has told prosecutors and police her story for years of adult sexual abuse in child sex parties and her story has some striking and very disturbing similarities to the Ramsey case. This woman told police that using a garrote to restrict airflow was a common method of enhancing the sexual experience by participants at child sex parties. We know JonBenet Ramsey was strangled with a garrote...The direct connection again to the Ramsey case is not clear at this point. But we do know that she does have some connections to the Fleet White family who was a former friend of the Ramseys."

At the conclusion of the report, the in-studio news anchor stated: "We will look ahead to the (Ramsey) miniseries coming up on CBS this weekend." Prominent coverage by KCNC of the unidentified woman's claims and her "connections" to our family continued through February 28. Included in a February 26 KCNC news broadcast was an interview with the woman's attorney who stated: "This woman has stepped forward recounting a lifelong history of sexual abuse, exploitation, domination and torture" Your reporter then added "Its the similarities between the sexual bondage of pedophilia and the battered and strangled body of JonBenet that (the attorney's) client knows how and why JonBenet died." At the conclusion of each such news report, the KCNC news anchor took the opportunity to promote the upcoming "Perfect Murder Perfect Town" segment. On February 28 a KCNC news anchor wrapped up a report of the woman's story by stating: "The miniseries on the JonBenet Ramsey murder continues Wednesday night

Mel Karmazin
May 20, 2003
Page Four

here on News 4". Then, after the second and final segment of the miniseries aired, KCNC completely dropped its coverage of the woman's story. Throughout, no other Denver television station chose to broadcast even a mention of the woman's "case breaking" story with the exception of one that did so only for the purpose of expressing extreme skepticism (ABC affiliate KMGH). Similarly, hundreds if not thousands of news editors and journalists across the United States had the good sense to ignore the story. Outside of Denver, nobody touched it. Police investigators soon determined that the woman was a fraud and that her claims were baseless with no relevance whatsoever to the Ramsey investigation. As for the woman's "connection" to our family, we did not even know of her existence prior to February 25, 2000. CBS coverage of the woman's story had nothing to do with responsible journalism.

It is perfectly obvious to us that your company used its Denver television news station to shamelessly exploit the false and preposterous claims of the unidentified woman for the purpose of smearing our reputations after we had questioned the credibility and motives of Mr. Schiller and the decisions of CBS executives to produce and broadcast the Ramsey miniseries. By taking that preemptive action, your company intended to prevent us from further criticizing you, your television programs or Mr. Schiller. Furthermore, CBS callously used its news station and the woman's salacious story as a means to "synergistically" focus public interest on the Ramsey investigation and, therefore, on the upcoming CBS miniseries.

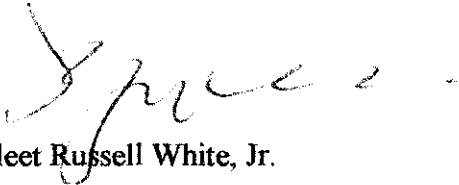
You, of all people, are not in a position to ask for further control or ownership of American news and entertainment media. Today, Viacom uses its vast distribution channels and the public airwaves to purvey programming laden with crime and "reality" content that is injurious to social order and civility and trivializes our democratic institutions and system of justice. Furthermore, Viacom uses its vertical ownership of media to meld entertainment and news programming in a manner that furthers its business objectives but abuses core First Amendment values and violates the public trust. The reprehensible conduct of Viacom in the context of the Ramsey investigation is an example. Most egregiously, you will use your influence and control over media to viciously malign citizens who you perceive as threats to your interests.

Mr. Karmazin, the best interests of American society, culture and government will *not* be served by allowing greater consolidation and concentration of media ownership and control in companies like Viacom. Doing so will only accelerate the tarnishing of the values and institutions that most Americans cherish and further reduce the number and diversity of independent voices that have always been our country's only real protection against abuses of power by government and business.

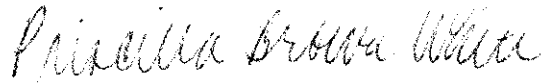
Mel Karmazin
May 20, 2003
Page Five

We pray that the Federal Communications Commission, the United States Congress and our courts recognize the paramount importance of preserving and protecting those voices. Our great marketplace of ideas should not be controlled by the few and certainly not by you, Mr. Redstone or Mr. Moonves.

Sincerely,



Fleet Russell White, Jr.



Priscilla Brown White

cc Federal Communications Commission: Chairman and all commissioners.

United States Senate, Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation:
Full Membership.

United States Senator Wayne Allard, Colorado
United States Senator Ben Campbell, Colorado

United State Congressman Mark Udall, Colorado 2nd District